

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An arrangement for enclosing at least a part of an object, comprising:

an elastically deformable sleeve and a support by which the sleeve is held in a deformed state such that removal of the sleeve from one end of the support allows the sleeve to recover around and thereby to enclose thean object; ~~(present in use), characterized in that~~

an initiating part of the sleeve remote from the ~~said~~ one end is arranged such that the deformation of thethat initiating part may be locally relaxed initially in isolation from athe remainder of the sleeve, the arrangement being such that the local relaxation provides an impetus that facilitates or causes the ~~said~~ removal of the sleeve from the ~~said~~ one end of the support.

2. (currently amended) ~~The~~An arrangement according to claim 1, in which a holding portion of the sleeve remote from the ~~said~~ one end of the support and beyond the ~~said~~ initiating part of the sleeve is in a more relaxed state than the initiating part of the sleeve, the relatively relaxed state of the holding portion of the sleeve at least contributing to the holding of the initiating part of the sleeve, and consequently also the remainder of the sleeve, in the deformed state.

3. (currently amended) ~~The~~An arrangement according to claim 2, in which the local relaxation of the deformation of the initiating part of the sleeve may be caused by a deformation of the ~~said~~ holding portion of the sleeve.
4. (currently amended) ~~The~~An arrangement according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, in which the initiating part of the sleeve is held by the support in a state of greater deformation than that of the remainder of the sleeve.
5. (currently amended) ~~The~~An arrangement according to claim 4, in which the greater deformation of the initiating part of the sleeve is caused by a protrusion ~~and/or~~ a depression of the support.
6. (currently amended) ~~The~~An arrangement according to claim 5, in which the protrusion is in the form of a flange ~~and/or~~ the depression is in the form of a groove.
7. (currently amended) ~~The~~An arrangement according to claim 5 ~~or claim 6~~, in which the protrusion ~~and/or~~ the depression is movable with respect to the remainder of the support, to cause or allow the local relaxation of the initiating part of the sleeve.
8. (currently amended) ~~The~~An arrangement according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, further comprising a retaining member attached to the sleeve such that releasing the retaining member from the sleeve causes or allows the local relaxation of the initiating part of the sleeve.
9. (currently amended) ~~The~~An arrangement according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, in which the sleeve is hollow and arranged to enclose at least part of ~~the~~an object by encircling it.

10. (currently amended) ~~The~~An arrangement according to claim 9, in which the sleeve is generally in the shape of a round or oval tube.

11. (currently amended) ~~The~~An arrangement according to claim 9 ~~or claim 10~~, in which the sleeve, in its relaxed state, comprises a plurality of sections of differing ~~shapes and/or sizes~~ and/or configurations, each of the sections arranged to enclose a respective section of the object.

12. (currently amended) ~~An~~The arrangement according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 11~~, in which all or part of the support is located inside the sleeve.

13. (currently amended) ~~An~~The arrangement according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, in which the support is hollow.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) ~~An~~The arrangement according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, in which the sleeve is formed from an elastomeric polymer material.

17. (currently amended) ~~An~~The arrangement according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, in which the support is formed from a polymer material.

18. (currently amended) ~~An~~The arrangement according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, in which the deformation of the sleeve comprises expansion of the sleeve.

19. (currently amended) ~~An~~The arrangement according to claim 4 ~~or any claim dependent thereon~~, in which the state of greater deformation of the initiating part of the sleeve comprises a stretched ~~and/or~~ expanded state.
20. (currently amended) ~~An~~The arrangement according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, in which the support has a shape that facilitates the removal of the sleeve from the support once the initiating part of the sleeve has been locally relaxed.
21. (currently amended) ~~An~~The arrangement according to claim 20, in which the support is tapered to facilitate the removal of the sleeve there from.
22. (currently amended) ~~An~~The arrangement according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, in which the support carries lubricant material that facilitates the removal of the sleeve from the support once the initiating part of the sleeve has been locally relaxed.
23. (currently amended) ~~An~~The arrangement according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, in which the removal of the sleeve from the support is substantially automatic once the initiating part of the sleeve has been locally relaxed.
24. (currently amended) The method according to claim 27, in which the sleeve is ~~A kit of parts for assembling an arrangement according to any preceding claim, comprising the elastically deformable sleeve and the support.~~
25. (currently amended) The~~A~~ method according to ~~of assembling a kit according to claim 27~~24, further comprising the step of deforming the sleeve and holding the sleeve in its deformed state by the support.

26. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method according to claim 25 ~~when dependent upon claim 4,~~  
further comprising the step of deforming the initiating part of the sleeve to a greater degree than  
that of the remainder of the sleeve, and holding the initiating part of the sleeve in its state of  
greater deformation by means of a suitable projection or other formation of the support.

27. (currently amended) A method of enclosing an object ~~by means of an arrangement~~  
~~according to any of claims 1 to 23,~~ comprising the steps of:

- (i) ~~placing the arrangement~~ a support over the object;
- (ii) locally relaxing ~~an~~the initiating part of the sleeve; and
- (iii) ~~causing or allowing~~ the sleeve to be removed from the support and to recover and  
thereby ~~to~~ enclose the object.